

## **REMARKS**

This Amendment serves as a submission accompanying a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being filed herewith.

Claims 15, 16, and 28 have been canceled. Claims 17 and 22 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 15 to 20 and 22 to 28 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of this Submission and Request.

In the earlier Office Action, claims 15 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,687,800 to Nassor (“Nassor reference”).

The Nassor reference appears to concern a chip card having a processing means and main information storage means. Specifically, the Nassor reference refers to a method for loading and unloading the programmable memory as a function of the need for the programs and/or the applicative data, for an information processing device constituted by a card. The Nassor reference also refers to a method for opening a same application twice simultaneously to speed up time.

In contrast, claim 17 is directed to a method for releasing a data processing unit for processing project data of a project, and requires, among other features, requesting usage permission for using the data processing unit to process project data belonging to a predetermined project, the predetermined project data being cryptographically protected, transmitting the predetermined, cryptographically protected project data via a communication network to a usage-permission generating device, and assigning a client a plurality of value units for the release of the data processing unit for multiple projects, wherein the plurality of value units are devalued in response to a request by the client for a usage right. The claims, including claim 17, concerns a different invention than the Nassor reference. The Nassor reference does not appear to identically disclose using signatures in conjunction with the plurality of value units a verification and access program as claimed in claim 17.

Claim 22 recites features analogous to those of claim 17. The remaining claims depend from one of claims 17 and 22, and are believed allowable for at least the same reasons as those claims.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over the Nassor reference of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that any outstanding rejections of claims 15 to 20 and 22 to 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) have been overcome, and that those claims are allowable as presented above. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that the present application issue as early as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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